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Group Makes Plans to Save African Wildlife

Some imaginative friends of Africa have banded together in Washington in a unique attempt to save African wildlife, now threatened with extinction.

United States Tax Court Judge Russell E. Train heads the group which plans to raise money to send African students to United States universities to study conservation.

"We believe that the only hope, the only chance of ultimate success of any African conservation program—and even here the odds are terribly long—lies with Africans themselves and in their obtaining the knowledge the job requires," said Judge Train who has been to Africa twice.

Seek Financial Support

Organized in the last few weeks, the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, Inc., hopes to obtain financial support throughout the country.

This is not "sentimental conservation," Judge Train said. The wildlife is vital to Africa's economy. It brings in tourist dollars and is the most efficient source of meat and protein available in most of Africa.

The main threats to African wildlife, aside from public apathy and indifference, the judge said, are native poaching and the increasing use of land for domestic cattle raising.

"Native poaching goes on at a fantastic scale in a great many areas of Africa," he said. "A short time ago some 600 elephants were reported to have been killed by native poachers in one year in Tsavo National Park of Kenya alone. Meat is taken for peddling through the black market in villages and towns. Elephants are slaughtered solely for their tusks which are exported through illegal channels to the Asian ivory market. Rhinoceros are killed solely for their horns which are sold for several dol-

lars an ounce for use as an aphrodisiac in the Orient.

"Giraffe, wildebeest and zebra are slaughtered in large numbers simply for their tails to be used as fly swatters . . . in Tanganyika alone, it is reported the average weekly toll of game by poachers substantially exceeds the annual take by licensed hunters." Judge Train and his asso-

ciates plan to select a university and hope to place five Africans in school this September.

Working with Judge Train in the Foundation are trustees Maurice H. Stans, former United States Budget Director; Kermit Roosevelt, vice president of the Gulf Oil Corp. and grandson of the late President Theodore Roosevelt;

Harold J. Coolidge, conservationist and executive director of the Pacific Science Board of the National Academy of Science; Edward C. Sweeney, former general counsel for the General Services Administration; James S. Bugg, president of the African Safari Club of Washington, and Arthur W. Artindel, president of Radio Station WAVA, Arlington.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW